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TRANSFORMERS
image
#19

ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE NINETEEN

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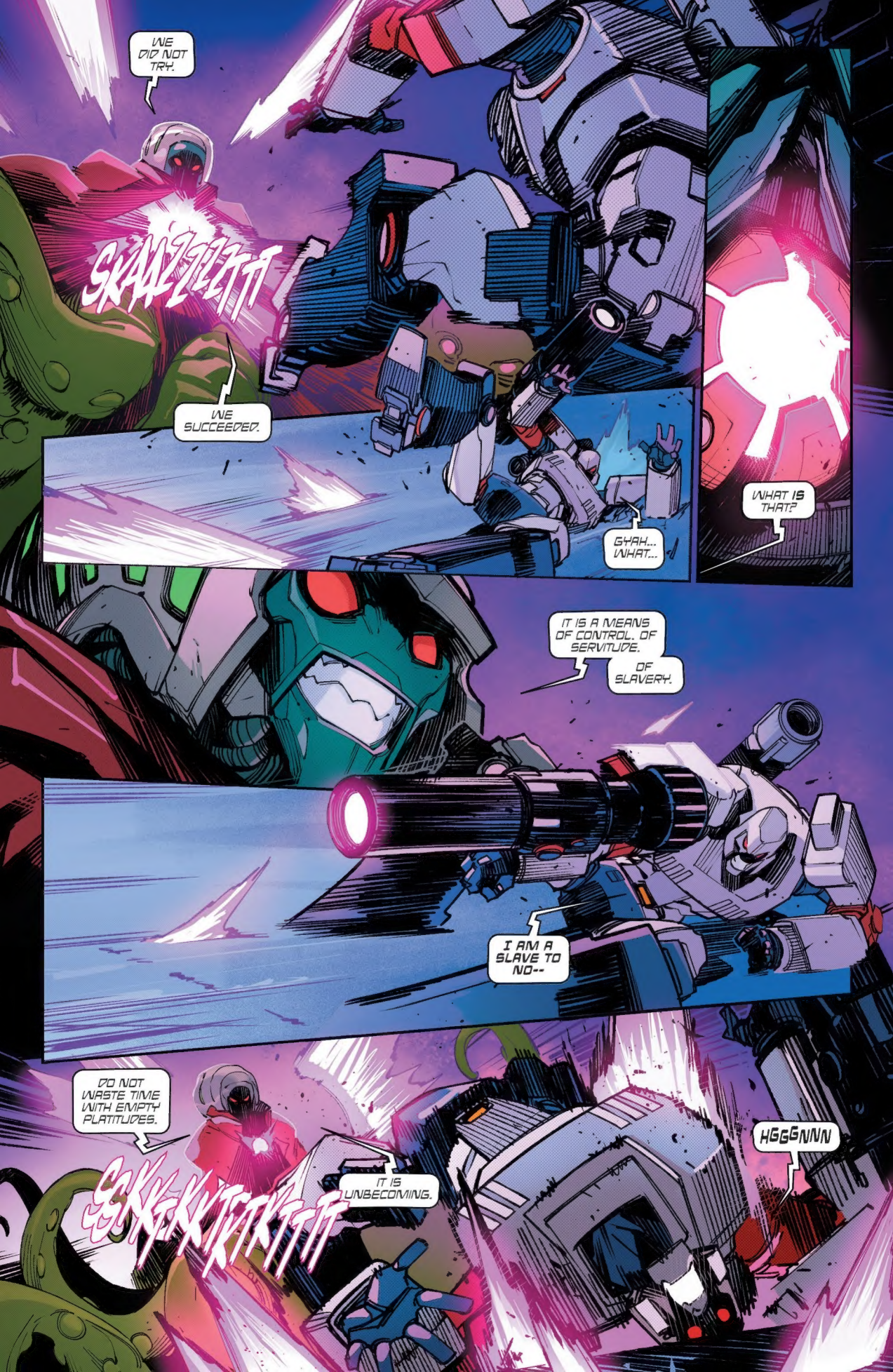
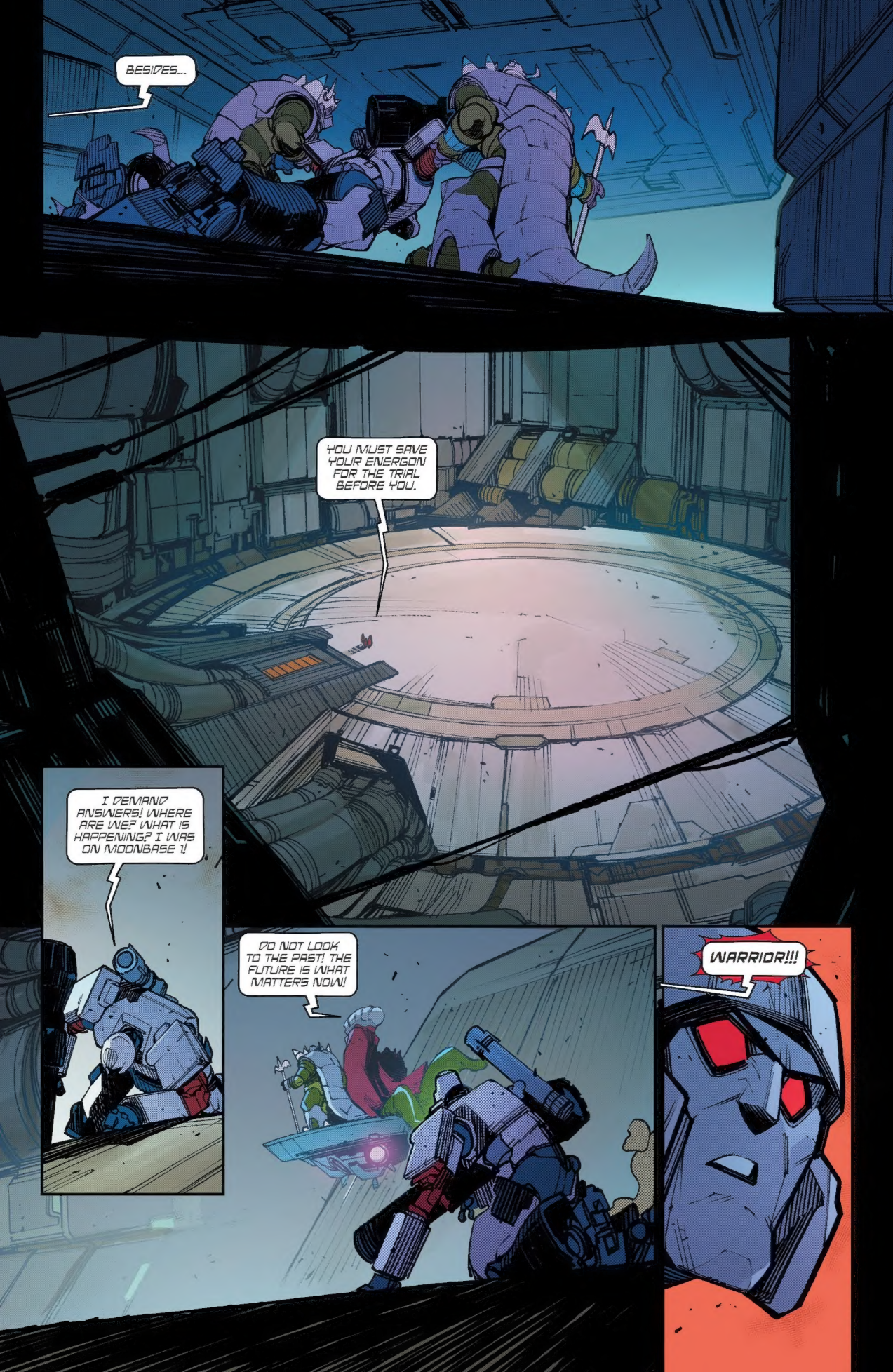
THE FIRST TRIAL.
THEN.
W... WHAT?
WHERE AM I?
WORRY NOT, BROTHER.
YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN A CHANCE AT TRUE GLORY. TRUE POWER.
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE WITH MY CLAN? WHERE IS THIS PLACE?!
MY NAME... IS DEZIMIR. WE HAVE TAKEN YOU AWAY FROM CYBERTRON FOR A GREAT TRIAL.
YOU DARE TRY TO CAPTURE ME???


WE DID NOT TRY.
SKAAZZLTT
WE SUCCEEDED.
GYAH... WHAT...
WHAT IS THAT?
IT IS A MEANS OF CONTROL. OF SERVITUDE.
OF SLAVERY.
I AM A SLAVE TO NO--
DO NOT WASTE TIME WITH EMPTY PLATITUDES.
SKKKTKTKTKTT
IT IS UNBECOMING.
HGGGNNN


BESIDES...
YOU MUST SAVE YOUR ENERGON FOR THE TRIAL BEFORE YOU.
I DEMAND ANSWERS! WHERE ARE WE? WHAT IS HAPPENING? I WAS ON MOONBASE 1!
DO NOT LOOK TO THE PAST! THE FUTURE IS WHAT MATTERS NOW!
WARRIOR!!!

BWAAA-
BWAAAA-
BWAAA-
STEEL YOURSELF!
GRAGHH GGHG
GHGHG

FOR THE SHARKTICON HORDE!!!
GHGHG
GRAGHH
GGHG
YOU THINK THIS FRIGHTENS ME? I AM MEGATRON!!!
BRING ME YOUR STEEL SO I MAY SMELT IT AT MY FEET.
SHZRAAPPP

BWAAAAAAA
AMAZING. OUR MASTER CHOSE WEL--
ZHWOZZZ
AGHHH!!!!
COWARDS! YOU USE A HORDE TO DO WHAT YOU YOURSELF CANNOT!
BOOM

AIIEEEEE!!!!
SKLKKKK
COME DOWN AND FIGHT M--!!!
THAKTZZZ
AGH!
DO NOT WORRY YOURSELF OVER US. YOU HAVE SURVIVING TO DO.
YEAGGHHHH!!!
CHOMP
GET--
OFF!
BOOM
KROOM

VERY GOOD.
ON TO PART TWO.
CRKKKK
BL BL BLBPL BL
ENOUGH! WHAT GAME IS THIS?
SIMPLE! A GAME OF WILL AND POWER!
IF YOU WON'T COME DOWN TO ME--
KHEEKOKO HAHKHEE

I SHALL FORCE YOU DOWN TO MY LEVEL!
LOWK LOWK LOWK
SPAK
YOUR ALTERNATE MODE IS IMPRESSIVE.
BUT YOU COULD BE SO MUCH MORE.
FWWSSH...
LIKE ME.

LIKE MECHANOKOAR!!!!
CHKK
KOOWWW
AGAIN.

THE SECOND TRIAL.
GYAH!
FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION.
WHAT...?
YOU HEARD ME.
PREPARE YOURSELF FOR BATTLE!
WHAT IS HAPPENING?
YOUR TRIAL HAS BEGUN ANEW.
NO.

BOOM
NO!
RETURN ME TO MY HOME THIS INSTANT!
THE TRIAL HAS ONLY JUST STARTED.
BOOM BOOM BOOM
CONTINUE THE FIGHT.
PROVE YOURSELF TO US.

THE THIRD TRIAL.
AGAIN!
THE TENTH TRIAL.
AGAIN!!!

THE THREE HUNDREDTH TRIAL.
THE FOUR HUNDREDTH TRIAL.
AGAIN!
AGAIN!
AGAIN!!!
PLEASE...
EVERY TIME...IT IS THE SAME. THIS... NIGHTMARE... THIS HELL.
THE FIVE HUNDREDTH TRIAL.
...PLEASE...
I CANNOT GO ON.

HOW MANY TIMES HAS IT BEEN?
NOT ENOUGH.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THIS IS NOT ONLY A TRIAL.
IT IS A LESSON.
MY MASTER HAS ASKED ME TO SHOW YOU HOW SMALL YOU TRULY ARE.
I AM NOT SMALL!!!!
NO? SINCE THE DAWN OF YOUR CREATION, YOU HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO SAVE YOUR WARRIORS.
UNABLE TO SAVE YOUR PLANET.

"AND NOW, UNABLE TO SAVE YOURSELF.
"COMPARED TO THE VASTNESS OF THIS UNIVERSE, WITH ALL ITS MYSTERIES AND TORTURES...
"YOU ARE NOTHING.
"UNTIL--
"THIS TRIAL--
"IS OVER."

STOP.
ZHWEEEEE
WHAT...?
MY MASTER HAS COME.
HE HAS DECLARED YOUR TRIAL FINISHED.
I...I...

THIS...THIS ALLOWED US TO ENSLAVE YOU. TO KEEP YOU HERE. THIS MATRIX IS THE DARK EQUAL TO THE ONE WIELDED BY THE PRIME.
THERE MUST BE AN OPPOSING FORCE.
THROUGH US, YOU WILL BE THAT FORCE.
VRRRRRAAAAA
BUT--
SCHKRRRP!

YEAAAARRGHHHH!!
SQTGLORPPPSTCHH
THROUGH A THIRD FORM, WITH EVEN MORE DEADLY POWER THAN WHAT YOU HAVE NOW.
A FORM THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO ASSERT CONTROL OVER WHOMEVER USES YOU.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NEW GIFT.

PICK HIM UP.
M-MY MASTER?
HE MUST KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO HAVE A SPARK UNDER HIS HEEL.
MY MASTER... PLEASE...I HAVE SERVED YOU-- FAITHFULLY-- FOR SO MANY YEARS, I--
PICK. HIM. UP.
CHK

GGNNGGHH--
YES. YES.
MEGATRON, NO...NOT MY BODY--NOT MY PRECIOUS--
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE A SLAVE, NOW THAT THE TABLES HAVE TURNED???
MEGATRON, PLEASE--!
DO NOT BEG, DEZIMIR.
CHK
IT IS UNBECOMING.
BZOWWWWW
NOOO!!!

"THIS WAS NOT ONLY A TRIAL.
NOW.
"IT WAS A LESSON.
"WHEN YOU FIRST CAME TO ME, YOU WERE NOTHING.
"BUT NO MORE.
"WITH THIS NEW POWER, YOU CAN FINALLY TAKE CONTROL. YOU CAN FINALLY LEAD CYBERTRON TO A NEW AND GLORIOUS DAWN.
"LIKE YOU WERE ALWAYS MEANT TO DO."

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

What a wild issue! I'm thrilled you could join us once again and we hope you loved this Megatron-centric story. Ben Abernathy, editor and co-host, reporting for duty and like always, I'm joined by the legend himself, Daniel Warren Johnson!

Hey Ben and hey fellow readers! How about Ludo killing it with art duties on this issue?? Thanks so much for joining us, my friends! I knew from the start that I wanted a singular Megatron issue. I'm so happy it came to fruition! Now let's get to your letters!!

Hello Skybound TF team!

I'm Angel, long time reader and first-time fan mail writer

I just wanted to say that I am loving this series so far and as of writing this I am officially all caught up! I was never super big into comics but you guys won me over FAST (it might have helped that I was already a big Transformers fan) I especially love the art style and the colors, I can only aspire to create a drawing as epic as any panel that the Combiners are in!

Welcome to the dark side, Angel!

Also, I just wanna say, Shredhead looks awesome! I'm really interested to know what he's all about, how would you guys feel if Shredhead got his own action figure? I've usually only collected TFA figures but this comic made me go out and grab some G1 guys to assemble the team from the comics (minus Beachcomber, he's so expensive right now!). I really hope Shredhead can have one of his own in the future

Anyway, keep doing what you're doing guys because I am loving it!

-Angel :)

Thank you for writing in, Angel, and congratulations on your first published letter! Jorge's Combiner work on the last arc was mind-boggling epic. I would lose my mind every time he turned in inked pages for the Bruticus vs Devastator pages! And I think we'd all FREAK OUT if a Shredhead action figure were made haha!

Yes, those were some incredible moments that Jorge really sold. Without him, this book wouldn't be what it is! And thanks for the Shredhead love! They are a super cool new addition to the Autobot team, and maybe they can help turn the tide in favor of the Autobots (for once)!!!

Hello from Tuscaloosa!

Just wanted to tell the Skybound team how thoroughly impressed I am with this entire run! Most of all I wanted to say that the artwork in this series is out of this world. I cannot tell you how many countless pages from across the series I want massive poster-prints of. That two-page spread of Optimus Prime ramming Skywarp just looks so raw!

Though I do have one minor question--

WHERE THE HELL IS JETFIRE??!!

His reveal in Void Rivals and sacrifice in Issue #1 quickly made him one of my favorite characters, and he just seemed to disappear in Issue #9 after being reconstructed! Did the Autobots forget about him, did you guys forget about him?? And do you have plans to write him back into the main story in the future?

You guys are STILL doing stellar work though, this series is an easy 10/10 from me

-Tate Windom

Thanks for writing in, Tate, and Jetfire has not been forgotten...that's all I can say at this time.

Jetfire? Left at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean, correct? Hmmmm...

Hi Transformers Team,

I wanted to thank you all so much for this comic. I've been a comic collector all my life, but if I'm being honest, I just wasn't finding comics as fun as I once did. When the Energon Universe started up, I decided to try out the first issue. I never watched the cartoon as a kid, and had very little interaction with the toys but my kids and I love watching the G1 cartoon, so I was hoping it would capture some of that magic. Well, I've stuck with it so far, and the highest compliment that I can give this comic is that it is PURE COMIC. It's loud, it's insane, it's an absolute blast. DWJ and Jorge Corona are a dream team; from wrestling moves to the craziest sound effects (HEAVY METAL and CHOO CHOO are frequently shouted by my kids), they aren't afraid to use the medium

Daniel and the team are doing an outstanding job. Reading this series makes me feel like a kid again.

to the fullest

"CHOO CHOO" might be me hitting peak writing mode. It may be all downhill from here!

But it isn't only the insane action that keeps me reading, the small moments are just as essential. Optimus striving to always do the right thing. Beachcomber seeing the beauty in everything. Cliffjumper's vulnerability. And Ultra Magnus--my heart breaks for him. Seeing him with his "fortress" might be one of the saddest comic book moments I can remember. Ultra Magnus is one of my favorite characters, so I'm pulling for him, and I hope he comes out the other end stronger than ever!

I also have to mention Shredhead real quick; don't know much about him since he just debuted in #17, but he's a fantastic design! He really fits in with that G1 look. I'm all for a cool robot barbarian, and I can't wait to see what is done with him.

Again, thank you so much for all you guys do. It's a great feeling to be excited about stopping by the LCS again!

P.S. I know you all probably get so many questions about "where's this character?", so I'm a bit hesitant to ask, but I have to: any plans for Cosmos to show up? He's one of my kids' favorites (& mine), so I would love to see Corona's take on the chunky little UFO guy!

Thanks,
NB

I love getting letters like this as I, too, watch the cartoon AND read our series with my kids! Getting their stamp of approval is a pretty high honor.

No plans for Cosmos right now, sorry NB! But we WILL see more of Shredhead very soon! Also, I'm glad Magnus' storyline is resonating. Him running away from the battle with Shockwave is one of my absolute favorite moments in this run. Thank you for writing in and sharing this story with your kids! What a compliment! CHOO CHOO

Hi Team!

I've read comics for about 30 years and I've never had a reason to send in mail, until Transformers! I'm 47 yo and have loved Transformers since the G1 days. The current series is absolutely fantastic and definitely made for the OG G1 fans. I've never read any of the Marvel or IDW series so Daniel's take is my introduction to Transformers in print, and I must say

I've watched literally every iteration of the cartoon from G1 to Earthspark, the Japanese cartoons, and the Netflix series. Even the live movies. I've loved the Transformers and all iterations given to us since 1984.

Superfan! I love it!

I have so many questions, but I'll be patient and wait and see how things unfold in this series. One thing I'd like to ask, at the risk of sounding like a super dork, are you going to write and include Transformers from other universes like Landfill from the Japanese version of Robots in Disguise (2001), Star Saber or Victory Leo from Japanese G1, or the Mini Cons from Transformers: Armada? I'd love to see your take on other bots from other universes incorporated into the comic.

Oh man, me too. For now, though, we're sticking pretty close to G1. That being said, I know Skybound is planning on doing Transformers for a VERY long time. There's plenty of room for us to explore in the future, so I will say this for now: Stay tuned!

All of you handling the EU are doing an absolutely phenomenal job of giving us something new with something familiar and I'm here for all of it. Transformers is now my all-time favorite comic and I want to say thank you for what you're doing with this beloved property. Don't stop dropping the heat.

Transformers Fan 4 Life,

Eman, thank you so much! I love how you put that: "Something new with something familiar." It's a true pleasure sharing my passion with the readers, especially knowing how much shared love there is for this universe and the characters within it. I'm so happy I get to play in this sandbox and connect with people like yourself.

Well, it's almost my kids bedtime, which means it's time to pull out the markers and start getting in some quality drawing time before shuteye. Until next month, be safe, be good, and hang in there!

You know the song,

-DWJ

Please keep the letters coming and buckle up for next month...things are going to get INTENSE!

-Ben

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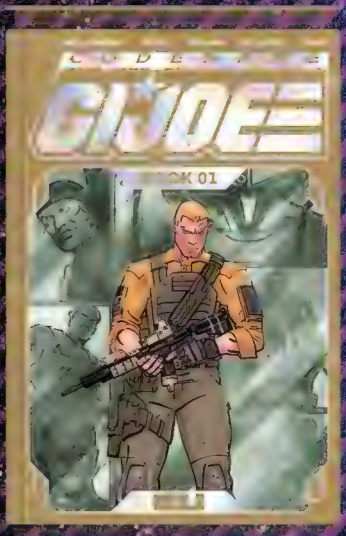

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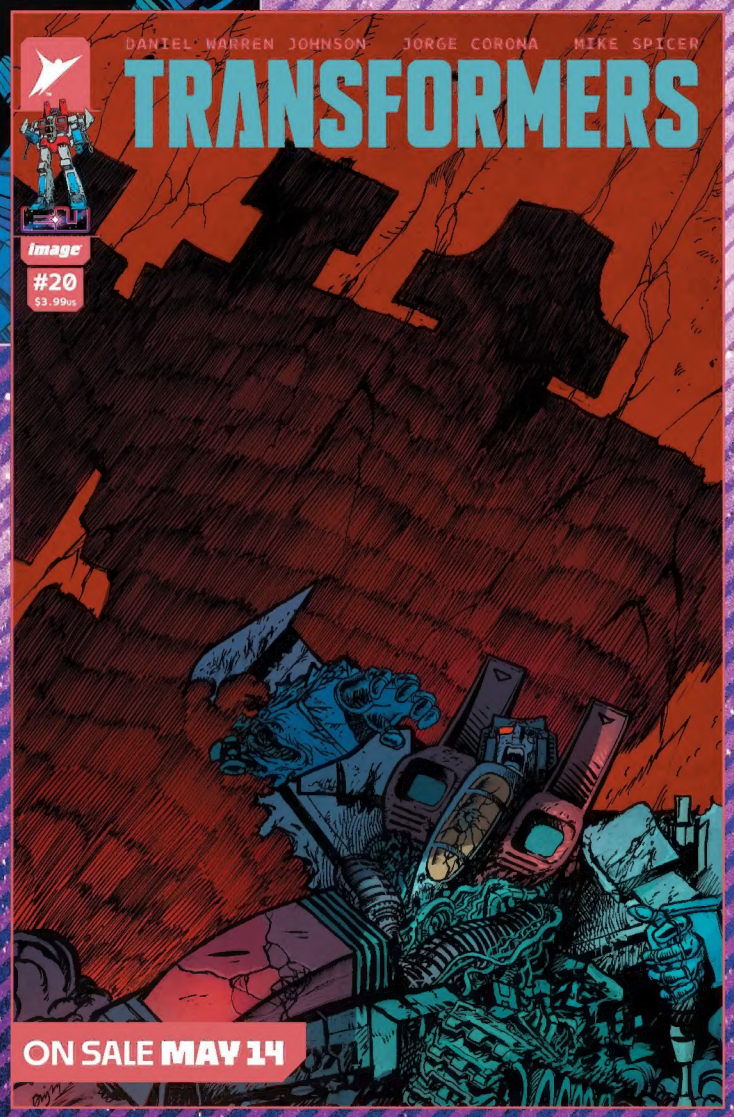

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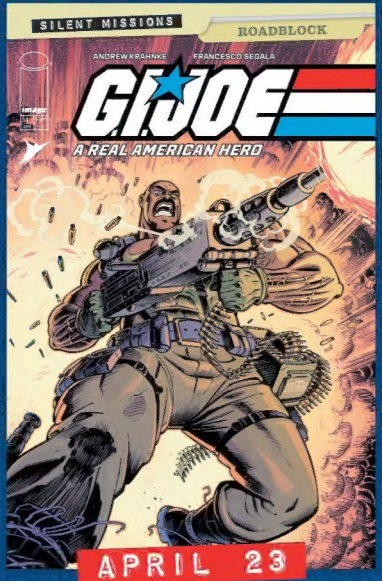

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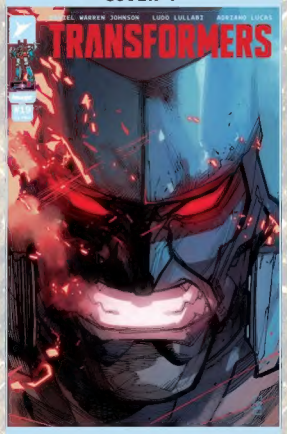

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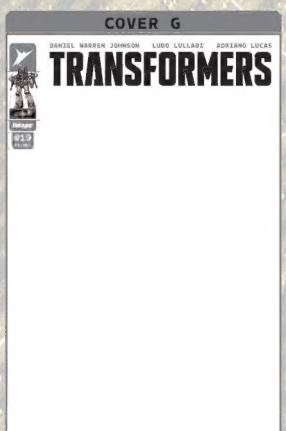

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